

- Nevada County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern Sierra Air Quality District
- Nevada County Fire Chiefs

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project

Total = \$3,000,000

17 ALTA SIERRA PRE-FIRE PROJECT

The Alta Sierra area was targeted for a pre-fire project due to its high rate of ignitions and its close location to areas to the north that have high rankings for assets, fuel hazard, and the lower rated level of service. In addition, this area has a past history of enthusiastic support of fire hazard reduction programs by the homeowners, Northern Sierra Air Quality District, and Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District (NCCFD). The NCCFD is currently the lead on continuing this project. They have instituted an ordinance that requires the owners of vacant lots to remove the hazardous fuels prior to fire season. If the landowner does not comply the NCCFD contracts to have the work completed and bills the landowner via their property taxes. The personnel from this department have conducted 285 inspections, which, resulted in fuel treatments on over 250 properties totaling more than 350 acres within their fire district.

Alta Sierra Pre-fire Project

Event 1: An inspection program targeting the vacant properties within the local fire district has been ongoing since 1997. They have developed a schedule that inspects each vacant property at least once every five years. This program holds the individual landowner responsible for reducing the hazardous fuels on their own lands.

Event 2: An inspection program of the Alta Sierra area to enforce the Public Resources Code 4291 Fire Safe standards (LE 38 Inspection). Nevada County Planning Department estimates that there are approximately 2,900 housing units in this area. Inspection of these housing units will serve two purposes:

1. Ensure compliance with PRC 4291. This will promote a fuel condition adjacent to structures where fire suppression resources will have a better chance of protecting homes should a wildfire occur.
2. Educate the homeowners of the state law requirements regarding defensible space standards and what they should do to help the chances of their house surviving a wildfire in the area.

The Nevada Yuba Placer Unit has found, in its Nevada County LE 38 Inspection program

in 2000, that only about 5% of the residences require a second inspection to ensure compliance with PRC 4291. Approximately 1% of the residences required a third inspection.

Event 3: Second LE 38 inspection of approximately 145 housing units.

Event 4: Third LE 38 inspection of approximately 29 housing units. *Includes General Services vehicle rental for inspectors.

Event 5: Homeowner support for removal of vegetation as a result of the LE 38 inspections. The inspections will most likely occur in the late spring and summer months. Residents who remove vegetation as a result of the inspections may need alternative ways to dispose of the material. Burn days will be limited due to air quality and fire hazard concerns. The proposed support for the homeowner is to notify the residents of the Western Nevada County chipping program at the time of the inspections. The homeowner can then clear vegetation around their residence, bring it to the curbside, and notify the FireSafe Council of Nevada County (NCFSC) once completed. The NCFSC will then dispatch a chipping crew to the area once sufficient material has been piled to keep the chipper busy for a minimum of four hours. The crew will then chip the vegetation and deposit the material back onto the property.

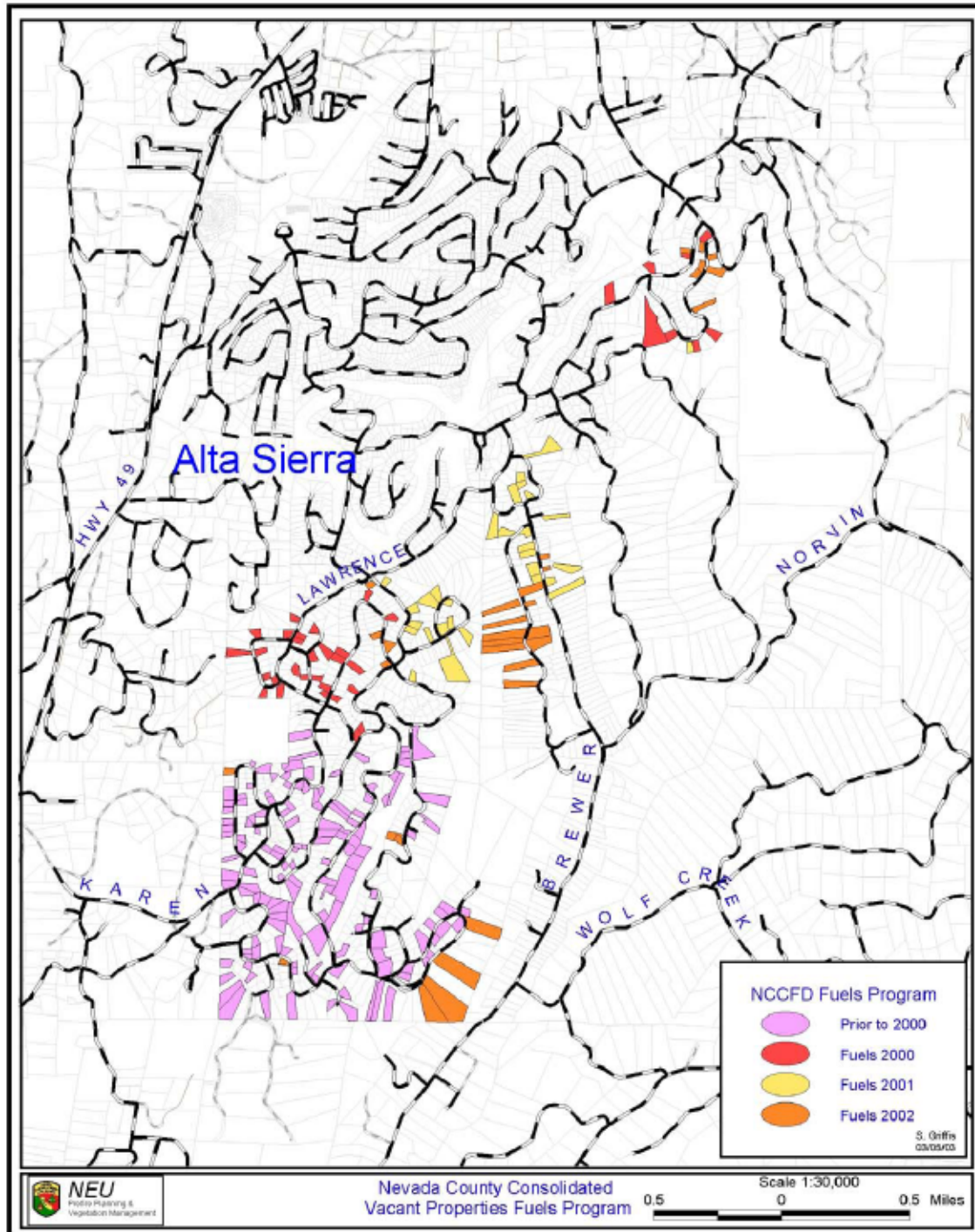
Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

- Nevada County
- Local Service Groups
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern Sierra Air Quality District
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District
- Alta Sierra Subdivision Homeowners Association

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project Total = \$125,652.50

The chipping portion of this program is incorporated in the amounts listed in the totals for the Unit-Wide Chipping described above. The cost of inspecting the vacant lands is being born by the Nevada County Consolidated Fire Department. The landowners fund clearing the properties.

In 2004, approximately 195 total acres on 161 parcels were treated within Nevada County between Cascade shores area and the Alta Sierra project.



18 COLUMBIA HILL SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT

With California's wildland-urban interface areas quickly growing, as well as the population of Nevada County, the objective of the Columbia Hill Shaded Fuel Break Project is to create a shaded fuel break in the Columbia Hill area of Nevada County.